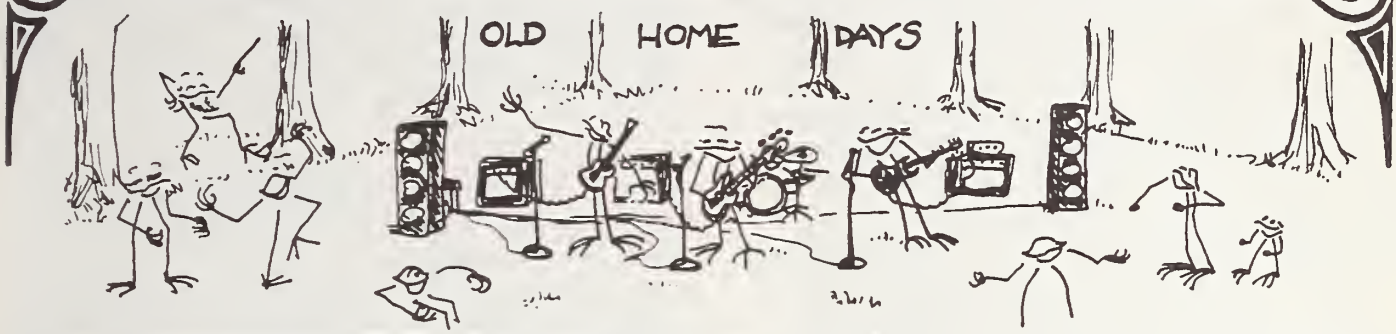
WENDELL POST



Vol. 1/No. 3 July 1978 25¢

Old Home Day 1978

Old Home Day is scheduled for Saturday, July 22nd. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. The program for the day will go basically as follows.

Starting at 10:30 a.m. there will be a bicycle parade around the commons. The fire engine will lead the parade. Smokey the Bear will then speak to the children. Then the games and contests will begin. There will be three legged races, wheelbarrow races, relay races, a money scramble, balloon toss, watermellon eating contest, tug of war, log cutting contest (folks interested in this should bring an axe with them),

continued on page 8

Taxes and a Special Town Meeting

The high volume of abatements made this spring and summer will bring the Board of Assessors to a special Town Meeting to ask for relief. The overlay fund set aside for abatements is already spent and money will have to be raised now or appropriated at next year's annual Town Meeting.

Assessor June Lewis says that now "Every time an abatement is made the money has to come from someplace--either free cash or next year's Town Meeting." She said that all the abatement applications have not yet been processed. "Farley Rd. and Mormon Hollow Rd. are the last areas to work on," she reported, "and they should be done soon."

The special town meeting will decide whether voters want to appropriate money to ease the tax problem. The Selectboard is waiting for the "cherry sheet" from the State so they will know what funds are available for such a use.

The meeting should be held before the end of July. It is important that voters attend, and are reminded that a quorum is necessary to transact business.

A New Residents First Impressions

I've been gaining impressions of Wendell since buying property here six years ago, but when I moved up permanently, the impressions came in a rush.

continued on page 5

Wendell Energy Conservation Committee Report

The United States imports nine million gallons of oil every day at a cost of twelve dollars each. This price was raised from one dollar and eighty cents after the embargo of 1973-1974 and has contributed to our economic distress.

Energy Alternatives are being developed as rapidly as possible but in the meantime every gallon of oil and every KW hour of electricity we can save is a PLUS.

More extensive use of wood stoves for heating next winter will be a great help. The "Cut a Cord" program will restart in September - this will give us an adequate supply of fuel at low cost. Contact the Wendell State Forest Headquarters on Millers Falls Road for details.

Any family with five acres or more of woodland can have the advice of a Forester in culling out trees unsuitable for lumber but OK for fuel. Call the County Forest Service at 1-413-549-1461 for information. Ask for Jim Soper.

All homes should be checked for quality insulation. The Franklin County Extension Service will send an expert on this, free of charge. Call 1-413-774-5300. Ask for Dan Hammock or Mark Livermore.

Anyone interested in helping on the Energy Conservation Comm. please contact Ken Wing or Bill Thompson or any of the selectmen. The next meeting is at Bill's house on Tuesday, July 25th.

FREE PUPPIES! NEED A LOVING HOME. SHEPHERD MIX. AFFECTIONATE AND PLAYFUL. CALL 544-2757.

WENDELL POST

Volume II Issue No. 3

This issue's staff:

Kathy Becker — Annie Diemand
Lewis Becker — Michael Idoine

Contributors:

Elsie Diemand — Penny Ricketts
Georgia Goodman — Jonathan von Ranson
Pat Judice — Harry Williston

Please send all manuscripts, photos, letters to:

Wendell Post
Box 113
Wendell, Mass. 01379

or call Annie Diemand at 544-2762

New Appointments - Finance Committee Formed

Wendell now has an independent Finance Committee. This committee will be elected in future years but was filled by Select-appointment this first year. Appointed were Sandra Bardsley, Anthony Kavolius, Gladys Powling, Donald Stone, Anne Zak.

Only two out of five places were filled on the new Energy Conservation Committee. Ken Wing and James W. Thompson were sworn into those seats.

Police officers appointed for the year are Harold Burnett, Theles "Jay" Blackbird, Ed Chase (Chief), William Facey, Joe Hartjens, and Jessie Wetherby.

David Burbank will be Plumbing Inspector and Harold Burnett will be Inspector of Buildings. Michael Hachey was appointed ~~Housingx~~ Wiring Inspector.

David Bardsley will be Road Boss and Ken Wing is Special Officer for Dump Duties. Jay Blackbird is the Field Driver and Fence Viewer. Harry Williston and Dolores Williston are Clerk and Assistant Clerk respectively for the Selectboard.

Thomas Bardsley and Vic Coy are Dog Officers. Coy will also be the Civil Defense Director.

Muriel Addison will be the representative to the Athol Council on Aging. Daniel Bacigalupo will will direct Elm and Gypsy Moth Control.

Greg Cironi and Charles T. Smith were appointed to the Conservation Commission.

NOTICE: Town Clerk Anna Hartjens said that a number of the persons appointed have not yet been sworn in. Those who have not should contact her as soon as possible in order to do so.

Also, the Board of Appeals is short 3 members, as is the Energy Conservation Committee. The Facilities Committee is inactive. If anyone has an interest in these jobs they may contact the Selectboard.

CUSTOM SHADES
WINDOWS
RESTORATIONS

D. Henry Pugh

STAINED GLASS

BOX 216 WENDELL, MA 01379 (617) 544-7438

Nutrition Commitee Formed

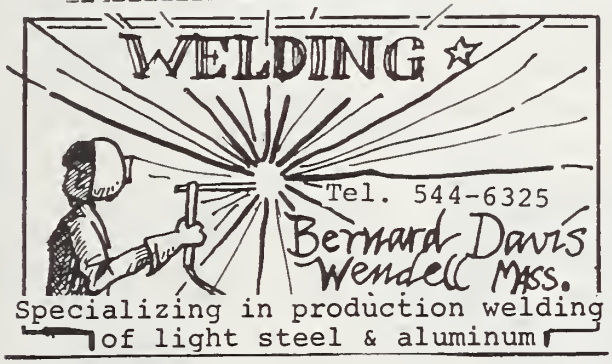
A nutrition committee, made up of interested parents and staff, is working at Swift River School to improve the nutritional quality of school lunches and to educate staff, children, and parents in food awareness. Some planned improvements in food quality include using fresh fruits and vegetables when possible, reducing the use of sugar, and gradually increasing the use of whole grains and whole wheat flour.

Len Strauss and several committee members visited the Oakham School, which has family-style, rather than cafeteria-style lunch, and became interested in initiating family-style service at Swift River School.

The group has met with officials from the Mass. Dept. of Public Health and the Dept. of Education to gain nutrition information and learn about State programs.

The general goals of the committee coincide with the recommendations of the Senate Select Committee on Human Nutrition which studied the American diet and found that major health problems - hypertension, stroke, heart disease, and cancer - were often nutrition related. The Senate Committee attributed poor health to the high intake of sugar and animal fats and low intake of whole grains, fresh fruits, and vegetables.

Anyone interested in what their children eat at school is invited to the next meeting August 22, 6:00 P.M. at Jane Stone's house.



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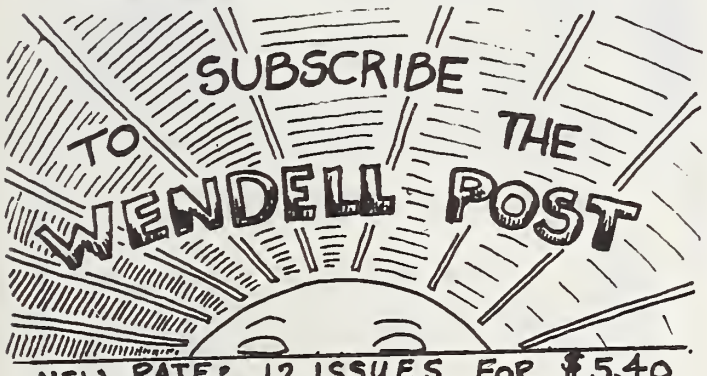

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Historical Display And Inventory

By Pat Judice

I would like to tell you about the Wendell Historical Society's display in the Town Hall on Old Home Day this year. It will include pamphlets, newspaper clippings, old photographs, diaries, and other numerous memorabilia from Wendell's past.

In the past, several Wendell residents have offered to include in our display some of their personal historical material. We would welcome any historically significant material that could be loaned for the day to enrich our display.

Of special interest in this year's display will be an area devoted to a challenging project that the Historical Society is undertaking - an historical inventory. We are being encouraged and guided by a group of CETA people sponsored by the Arts Council of Franklin County. They are offering their services to all the towns in our county.

A comprehensive history of Wendell does not exist at this time. Over the past four years, the historical society has gathered much information on Wendell's history but there is much more needed to complete the whole picture. We are in need of any historical information

An historical inventory is necessary as an important aide in the preservation of areas, buildings, monuments, sites, burial grounds and structures. It will reflect Wendell's history and architecture, as well as significant archeological information. It will examine our physical and man-made environments.

The first area of interest for beginning our inventory will be the center of town. We want to gather pertinent information on the Millstone Monument, Congregational Church, Center School, Wendell Free Library, Town Hall, cemetery, and other buildings and structures around the Common. This, an in-depth study, will be made easier if there is volunteer support from the townspeople. We need help in such areas as researching deeds, typing and publicity. If anyone can offer any time or information please contact us.

The Wendell Historical Society has no permanent museum at this time. Old Home Day gives us a chance to display our historical material and share our concern for preserving Wendell's interesting history.

A meeting is scheduled on Monday evening, July 24th at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall to work on the historical inventory. All are welcome to attend.

Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant

Wendell Citizens Concerned

This summer eight Wendell residents participated in the June 24-26 anti-nuclear power demonstration at Seabrook, New Hampshire. Wendellites were there in response to a call from New Hampshire seacoast anti-nukes of the Clamshell Alliance. Help was requested to stop the construction of a nuclear powerplant in Seabrook. We joined 10 to 20 thousand other demonstrators in an action that apparently was noticed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the NRC) which later in the week ordered construction to be suspended at Seabrook on July 21. Construction can only begin again pending (1) a ruling from the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the affects of the warm water from the proposed cooling tunnels on the coastal marine life, and (2) additional study of other possible sites for the plant. The suspension is clearly a victory for the anti-nuke forces.

Why have the anti-nuke forces grown so large? I believe there are many others who, like myself, thought a few years ago that it was great for nuclear power to be used for peaceful means such as the production of electricity. Gradually we have become aware of the tremendous danger inherent in the use of nuclear fission even for peaceful means. For instance, there is the fact that the deadly radioactive waste produced by a nuclear power plant must be stored for up to 250,000 years. This affects the residents of Wendell just as profoundly as it affects the residents of Seabrook.

Of course the proposed nuclear power plant for Montague has been a catalyst for involving hundreds of Westerm Mass. residents in the stop Seabrook battle. We want to stop any more plants from being built anywhere.

At the same time we want to encourage the development of practical ways to use renewable resources such as the sun and wind. There were solar ovens, stoves, and hot water heaters being demonstrated at the Seabrook rally. All were hand made and inexpensive to build. The power did not have to be purchased from the power company. Individuals and small groups continue to research and invent ways to use the sun and wind to create usable energy, but there is yet to be a huge sum of government money put into this effort.

Other Wendell folks who would like to become involved in the anti-nuke, pro-solar movement should talk to any of your neighbors who are already involved. The following participated in organizing the rally at Seabrook: Charles Smith, Karen Idoine, Ingrid Pfohl, George Butler, Bob Luizzo, Jonathon von Ranson, and Janice Konieczny. If you contact them they can help to get information to deal with the problem of nuclear power and alternatives that will avoid its necessity.

----Anne Perkins

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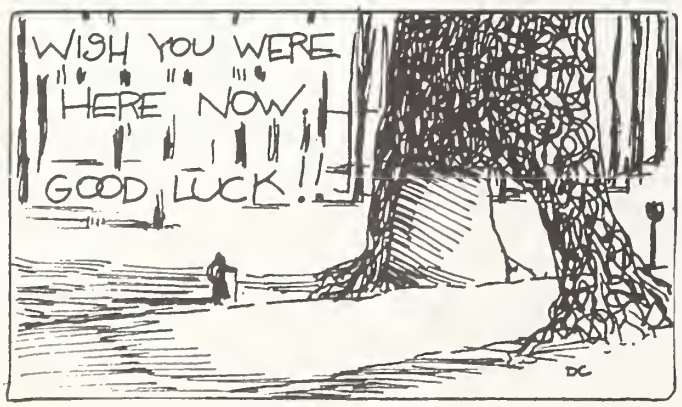
Judy 544-2346



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Doug Johnson 544-3367 Wendell Depot Ma.

First Impressions ~

continued from page 1

At this stage of my acquaintance with Wendell, we're still falling in love, so don't expect me to notice the warts and blemishes.

Wendell is lucky; they talk about potential --well, Wendell is a town with a lot of ACTUAL.

In the most important ways, Wendell is just about perfect. It really couldn't use anything because whatever was done to make things more convenient, or beautiful, or traditional, would also bring the hordes...something I suspect a majority of Wendellites would as soon do without.

It has a tremendously independent kind of citizen, both the old timers and, particularly, the newcomers. Some of this independence others would call cussedness, but after years of living in the city, where people remind me of sheep in a herd, to me it's exhilarating. It's the kind of independence that needs room to assert itself in, and that, I suspect, is why these characters picked--or stayed in--this town instead of gravitating to Greenfield, or Springfield, or--like some poor souls--Boston or Hartford.

The mixture of citizens, ethnically, educationally, old guard and new arrivals, breeds a healthy kind of awareness, an appreciation of individual differences. The presence of Maple Valley School will keep Wendell young when other towns are heavily into Geritol and lawn bowling. There's a high per-capita ratio of musical, artistic, mechanical, and more exotic talents here.

Then there's the Wendell spirit, which I, as a newcomer, can still feel and compare. It has in common with the town spirit of many other towns that it somehow makes you think there's no other place on earth, but there's something more. It has to do with the real uniquenesses of this town--its size, the vitality of the people who live here and the position the town occupies as a result of their choices of alternatives to the standard American lifestyle. The old timers who held on through an exodus to the cities contribute as much to the impressive fabric of Wendell as the newcomers who brought their new--yet somehow basic and old--ideas to the high ground of Wendell.

-Jonathan von Ranson

$$
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BRING'EM TO MIKE TRETTER AT
OLD HOME DAY
$$

Posting Place

Wendell citizens may call this number to leave a message for our administrative assistant:

Michael Noble
1-800-392-6445

TOWN OF WENDELL DUMP HOURS

Summer

TUESDAY----8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY--8:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
THURSDAY---1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
SATURDAY---8:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
SUNDAY-----1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Rural Arts

The New Salem/Wendell Rural Arts Program Advisory Board met on Tuesday, July 11th. Fund raising ideas were exchanged and plans for the Fall and Winter course offerings were discussed.

The Board is seeking volunteers to help in such areas as publicity, mailings, refreshments, poster making, etc. If anyone is interested in giving some of their time, please contact Pat at 544-3529.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board will be on Monday evening, July 31st at 7:30 p.m. at Linda Overing's home in New Salem.

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Route 2 update

Wendell opponents of the latest plan for relocation of Route 2 may be in for a shock if they're counting on the National Wildlife Federation to take the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to court when-not if- the official decision is to put the highway through Wendell State Forest. The state is in constant contact with the NWF to iron out objections to the plan, and a local attorney admits it is "possible" the national environmental group is threatening a lawsuit only in order to extract concessions from the Comm. of Mass. in its design for the highway.

If that turns out to be the case, very little stands in the way of eventual construction of the four-lane swath through the state forest land and privately owned wilderness of Wendell's Bear Mountain. And there are signs that the state Department of Public Works has the money to build the stretch quickly because other highway projects in the eastern part of the state have been slowed by environmental objections.

Route 2 has long been on the developed Erving side of the Miller's River. Now that the question of expanding it has come up the bigger,faster,noisier route is planned for the forested Wendell side."Erving Paper Mill and a lot of other people in Erving have been putting a lot of pressure on the state," said Les Black, a Warwick attorney who is involved in a legal capacity both with the Wendell Conservation Commission and the Miller's River Alliance. (It was Black who speculated that the National Wildlife Federation might be able to be appeased by design changes in the proposed highway short of moving it off Bear Mountain. The NWF could not be reached directly for comment.)

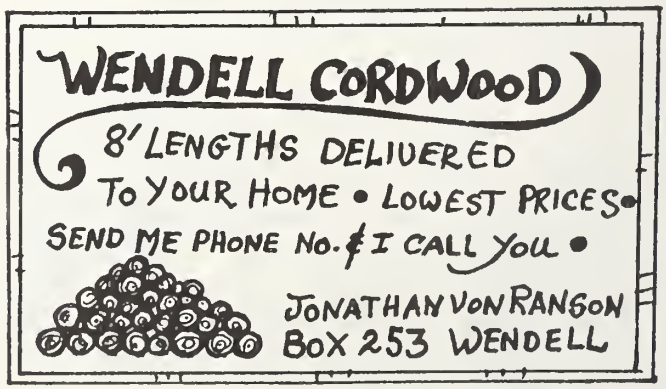
Although there is a body of opposition to the highway plans in Wendell, little of it has apparently found its way to the sensitive ears of the state bureaucracy. As everyone knows by now, environmental impact studies play a harmonious second fiddle to political considerations in routing of state highways in Mass. and other states.It is not what the damage to the environment will be, it's how convincingly the public points out the damage that gets a highway moved.

Asked where the main opposition came from, John Willey, project manager for the Environmental Impact Statement, named the Wendell Conservation Commission, State Rep. Thomas Simons , Jeffrey Dubay, a Mr. Bisby, and the Miller's River Alliance. None are known to be from Wendell. The Alliance is based in Orange, Dubay is from Erving-Farley, and Simons is from Turners Falls.

Some of these groups and individuals oppose certain plans for putting the highway on the Erving side, since two of those formal alternates include taking of state forest land too. But historically, each time state planners proposed a new route on the Erving side (a periodic ritual for the past twenty years), the people of Erving object mainly in terms of impact on the town, not the Erving State Forest. It is a fact that the state's first choice, for planning reasons, has always been to place the highway through Erving. "But the feelings of the citizens in Erving Center generated such a wave," remembers Willey, "the lieutenant governor made the statement it would never happen."

Leo Cordrey, a selectman in Erving, has asserted himself strongly in opposition to putting the highway through his town. Wendell's selectmen, who were Don Ellis, Theodore Lewis, and Ed Judice at the time positions were first taken, unanimously favored the route through Wendell. Any communications with the state from Wendell's selectmen go through Cordrey, according to Willey, apparently seeing Wendell's interests as similar to Erving's.

On another front the Greenfield Recorder published an editorial recently containing unusually strong wording calling for construction of Route 2 along the Wendell path and discrediting the National Wildlife Federation for its involvement in the issue.



Selectboard Minutes

Wendell1 Town Hall May 30, 1978

Road surveyor, David Bardsley, gave a progress report on the beaver situation on New Salem Road. It was explained that the land owner is responsible for any damage to the Town road that the beaver might cause.

Discussed the problem of the use and condition of a local road grader. Discussed the Town Hall's custodian position with Parker Cleveland.

Ken asked permission for the rest of the Board to make a housing needs and health survey for the town. Ted asked the need for the survey. Ken asked the Board of Selectmen to ask the Inspector of Buildings and the Board of Health to bring their records up to date. Ken asked if there are adequate statistics for the town. Ted's reply was that the Board of Selectmen should invite all town officials and Mike Nobel to a meeting at the Town Hall to discuss some of the problems of the town. Ken Simos wants permission to ask of the inspector of buildings and the Board of Health to gather statistics on substandard housing as that none exist at present. Ted and Maurice want to put off any decision on this until after June 20th, at which time a public meeting can be held with Mike Nobel and all elected and appointed officials.

Maurice asked what rest felt about Town Counsel. They decided to contact several counsels and start interviews.

June 6, 1978

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Ted Lewis, with the full Board present. The weekly payroll and bill warrant was approved.

The Board rejected an earlier request of the dump custodian to have a telephone installed at the dump (due to excessive installation and monthly charges).

The Board signed a letter to the R.C. Mahar Regional School Committee stating that they approve of the District's project of replacing and repairing the heating system.

The Road Boss requested that the Board write a letter to the Dept. of Natural Resources, Fish and Game Division, Belchertown, to request that the beaver in Don Stone's pond be removed at once.

Paul Diemand requested that the ballet lessons his wife now teaches on Thursday afternoons be changed to Saturday mornings.

The Board discussed the possibility of setting fees for future use of the Town Hall.

Dump Custodian, Ken Wing, presented a list of proposed hours effective July 1. These hours were approved.

Att. Les Black was interviewed by the Board as a possible Town Counsel for the coming year (retainer fee $750).

June 20, 1978

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Ted Lewis with the full Board present. The minutes of the June 6, 1978 meeting were approved.

Road Surveyor David Bardsley reported that three beavers had been removed from the New Salem Road area. The Road crew will begin working on Farley Road tomorrow. Road Surveyor David Bardsley requested a raise for the road crew effective July 1.

	Present Rate	Granted
Sup't	4.84	5.25
Truck Dr.	4.24	4.50
Laborer	3.50	3.50

Voted: 2 for, 1 abstained.

It is reported that Jack A. Ellis no longer has a road grader.

Charles Winn from Kimball-Cooke Insurance Co. met with the Board to discuss the statement of values with the Board. Ken felt that the Statement of Values was too low. The Board agreed and raised the Statement (see article page 1).

For appointments made during this meeting, see article on page .

July 5, 1978

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ted Lewis, with Ken Simos also present. Maurice Cole is attending an important meeting in Warwick.

7:15 p.m. Pole Hearing, Lock Hill Road #2 --2 poles. Location approved.

Appointed William Golding a police officer.

Dog Officer, Tom Bardsley, issued a complaint to the Board about a dog that has been a continual problem.

David Bardsley reported that he has his CETA Youth Corps Workers now.

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Lou on the Loose

Hello from Lou to you! The summer season often brings a wind of change and this month Lou must sadly confirm the rumors of the Blue Sky (Magic Music) break-up. Jeff Hoffman, in the area recently, reports that Florida is no Garden of k den for a non-commercial band, and the pressure to be someone-else's-thing (disco, hit parade, etc.) finally exceeded their desire to be there. Hoff and drummer Rod Raub might settle in locally but Jeff Mendel (bass) and Doug Huntington (harmonica) have banded together in hometown Asbury Park, N.J. Best of luck!

Fairchild is taking a break from active performing this summer but you can hear their first project, a commercial for Countryside Realty, on WCAT 3 times a week. A successful audition at the Dugout, Greenwich Village, N.Y.C., has yielded a gig in August, an exciting sidelight to their summer recording and composing projects. Keep an eye out for them locally, though; we may be surprised.

Speaking of New York City, you can also find members of Outerspace haunting the Big Apple these days. Though their next group appearance is Old Home Day, they have been appearing in different combinations behind the likes of bluesman John Hammond and New Wave prodigy Compton Maddux. Rural Space-man Klondike Koehler, very excited about his recent work in Newport-N.Y. with Count Basie and other jazz giants, may be in town a little more this summer but maybe not. His growing reputation as a stage manager may pull him to Memphis, Tenn. in August or on the road in the fall with the Conway Twitty-Loretta Lynn show. Go Klon!

Loose Caboose, showing little respect for their elders, lively one-upped Taj Mahal according to ardent fans at the recent Rusty Nail concert. Thanks to a great audience and minimal technical problems, the show was very satisfying for performers and participants alike. Taj may return with the Caboose in October. As we go to print, Lou and the Caboose are scrambling to prepare a new audition tape as a possible warm-up act to reggae superstar Peter Tosh at the Music Inn, Lenox. More later. Aside from assorted road trips, the Caboose will appear locally at David's (Aug. 5 & 6) and, perhaps, a special get-acquainted 4-day stint at the Nail in mid-Aug.

To wrap up this issue's column, Lou would like to change his usual exit line and thank you all for indeed supporting your local bands. Bye til next month.

Lou Caboose

Old Home Day ----

new games and an obstacle course, etc. These games will be going on throughout the day. There will also be rides on the fire truck for kids, big and small.

The Outerspace Band will play starting at 2 p.m. Arts and crafts booths, tag sales, bake sales, raffles, snack stands, balloons, and many other things to see and do.

To wind it all up there will be a chicken bar-b-que at 5 o'clock. Tickets will be available during Old Home Day. They will be $3.50 for adults and $2.00 for children.

Anyone interested in having a booth or helping out in any way please call Pam at 4-6400, Anne at 4-2762, or Tom at 4-2174.

And Please Come!!!

In The Past ~

Long time residents remember some of the following activities of former Old Home Days:

There were the foot races around the Common, and bike races with the bikes all decorated. They had horseback rides and animal shows, too. And, later on, when the town had a fire truck, the kids always had rides on that.

They'd open the church and have services. There'd be a supper and always a baseball game for the men. Harry Pratt used to pitch. and Everett Ricketts catch. The team's name was the Wendell Milltowners. There would always be a big crowd who would stay for the square dancing at night. People would talk about Old Home Day for weeks before and weeks after. Everyone always had a real good time.